**Magna Charta Universitatum 2.0**

# **Context: what are the main challenges and characteristics of our present context?**

Because of globalization and the rise of a knowledge-based society, we are currently experiencing profound changes that have brought about new challenges to the future of European universities. Three major types of challenges can be observed:

1. Environmental, climatic and energy concerns, which are affecting the quality of life of individuals and societies in every country on every continent
2. Scientific and technological changes across all sectors of life and science, which are becoming the new driving force of our society against economic crises. As a result of digital innovations, a new “network society” has emerged that has radically changed the way in which people interact globally
3. Cultural evolution and diversity. Cooperation and solidarity at international level are called for to deal with dramatic consequences for the developing and, consequently, developed countries. Peace, cultural diversity, equity and sustainable development are some of the main aspects that defines our new cultural patterns

These three aspects of macro-social change are addressed as global challenges in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), defined as “the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all”. In this overall picture, knowledge and research, as well as innovation and citizens’ critical thinking are points of fundamental importance to reach such goals and contribute to a better world.

# **Responses and Responsibilities: how do we describe university roles in these terms?**

The University is a large community of women and men, which builds on their different roles and skills to spread knowledge, experiment new techniques and develop new ideas, leading to the transformation of our society.

In such a fast-changing and constantly developing world, universities are key actors of a world without borders, and aim to address climatic, environmental, scientific, intercultural and inequality issues among the peoples and geographic areas of the world. To do this, universities build on their traditional openness to innovation and the unexpected.

Teaching and research constitute the two fundamental aspects of university life and its autonomy, alongside an ever-increasing need to maintain a vital relationship with the whole society and the world of work. Therefore, universities work as social and cultural centres, but also as the largest regional employers that can nourish technical, economic and social development through relevant research.

In this sense, university’s mission is to provide education and training as an integral part of life among new generations, inspiring them a passion for culture and discovering, combined to a profound ethical thinking across any discipline and field. Civic engagement has always been there, but it is now explicitly promoted by universities as a part of students and staff employability skills.

Given this crucial role, universities reflect societal expectations and concerns, making trust and reliability two central aspects for future development. Universities should continuously invest in the quality of training and in research that matches societal needs, as well as in a valuable organizational and institutional structure.

# **Principles and values: which key values are/should be steering universities?**

It is clear that within one and the same institution, each value and related concepts can carry different meanings for different individuals. For this reason, a dialogue and consultation of all stakeholders about the values they find important is not only necessary but also highly enriching. A suggestion was made to think of *foundational values* (i.e. values that are characteristics of a university, like autonomy and freedom – if a university is not autonomous, it is not a university), *operational values* (i.e. values associated with the behavior or conduct of students and staff) and *social values* that are steering the social mission of institution (i.e. responsiveness to society needs) and provide a definition for each value.

During our last meeting on 9 May 2018, the UNIBO community identified 12 main values that can be used as a basis to complete the table below. **Please, put values into their relevant category and provide a definition for each value.**

1. Critical Thinking

2. Integrity

3. Engagement

4. Cooperation

5. Responsibility

6. Collegiality and continuous improvement (three-way tie)

7. Creativity and Dignity (three-way tie)

8. Sustainability

9. Trust  
10. Inclusion

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| **Foundational values** | **Definitions of values** |
| Autonomy |  |
| Freedom |  |
| Integrity |  |
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| **Operational values** | **Definitions of values** |
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| **Societal values** | **Definitions of values** |
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